



Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats** **Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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Thompson Named Top Democrat on Homeland Security Committee

Washington, DC--The House Democratic Caucus today approved Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) as the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

"I'm proud to name Bennie Thompson to be the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, he is a demonstrated leader on homeland security issues," House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said. **"As the Ranking Member of the Emergency Preparedness and Response subcommittee, Bennie led the fight to fix first responder grant funding."**

Thompson assumes the role as the top Democrat on the committee from Jim Turner, (D-TX) who retired at the end of the 108th Congress. Turner had served in capacity since the Select Committee was founded in January, 2003.

"I would like to thank Leader Pelosi for giving me the opportunity to lead on such an important issue," said Thompson. **"I look forward to spending the next two years working with my Democratic colleagues and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to make this country as safe as it can be from terrorist attack."**

"It has been three years since September 11, and it is no longer good enough to say America's security is a work in progress," continued Thompson. **"Democrats will not settle for half steps, half measures or excuses. Under my leadership, if we find security gaps, we will hold the Administration accountable, and demand solutions. It is our responsibility to ensure that Americans get the security they have been promised."**

A native of Bolton, Mississippi, Thompson represents Mississippi's Second Congressional District. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Tougaloo College, and a Masters of Science degree from Jackson State University. He was elected alderman in Bolton in 1969, at the age of 21, and was elected mayor four years later. He helped Bolton get its first fire engine. In 1980 he became Hinds County supervisor. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993.
